

DETAILED ACTION

Status of the Claims

Claims 17-28 are allowed.

Allowable Subject Matter

1. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:
2. Independent claims 17 and 18 are found allowable over the closest prior art, Saunders (US 5,531,876) because of the limitations to the structure of the elastic clamping elements (angled leaf spring... base arm has opposite ends wedged between the side walls of the recess) for use with a cylindrical target and support structure. Saunders, while containing a similar elastic clamping element (Saunders at figure 2), has a different base arm and is not designed for a cylindrical apparatus.
3. Independent claims 23 and 24 are found allowable over the closest prior art Ueda (JP 2002155356) because of the limitations to the structure of the recess being a concavely rounded base and the cross-section of the clamping element being correspondingly convexly rounded. Although Ueda discloses the use of O-rings in the joining of a cylindrical target to its backing structure (Ueda at figure 7), Ueda does not disclose nor provide motivation to provide a concavely rounded recess for the ring.

Conclusion

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jason M. Berman whose telephone number is (571)270-5265. The examiner can normally be reached on M-R 8am-5pm EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nam Nguyen can be reached on (571)272-1342. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Nam X Nguyen/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 1753

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/J. M. B./

Examiner, Art Unit 1795

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